

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2713

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5874

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING: SITREP NO. 83

1. AIR FORCE 2 DEPARTED MEXICO CITY AT APPROXIMATELY
0900 LOCAL JULY 12 CARRYING REMAINS OF JOHN PATTERSON,
ALL MEMBERS OF BOTH FAMILIES, AMB. LEWIS HOFFACKER, AND
EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE (POL COUNSELOR ESTEP).

2. EXCELSIOR JULY 12 PUBLISHES TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED
BY PATTERSON'S SISTER, MRS. JOAN PATTERSON DEL POZZO, AT
HER INITIATIVE. TEXT AS FOLLOWS (FREE TRANSLATION):
"THE PATTERSON FAMILY WISHES PUBLICLY TO THANK THE MEXICAN
GOVERNMENT AND THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTOR OF MEXICAN
FEDERAL POLICE FOR EFFORTS THEY MADE IN TRYING TO SAVE
JOHN S. PATTERSON, VICE COUNSUL AT HERMOSILLO. IN ADDITION,
WE WISH TO CLARIFY THAT OUR MAIN PURPOSE IS THAT TRUTH
BE KNOWN ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER JOHN S. PATTERSON
WAS KIDNAPPED ON MARCH 22. SO THAT THIS END MAY BE
ACHIEVED, WE FERVENTLY WISH THAT MR. (BOBBY JOE) KEESEE
BE EXTRADITED TO MEXICO, WHERE HE COMMITTED THE CRIME,
AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT BOTH GOVTS WILL DO ALL IN
THEIR POWER TO BRING ABOUT THAT EXTRADITION." (EL HERALDO,
OTHER PAPER TO WHICH STATEMENT WAS RELEASED, CARRIED
SUMMARY OF IT.)

3. EXCELSIOR CARRIED IN COMPANION ARTICLE MOST OF THE
TEXT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT (STATE 149720), AND
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SEVERAL OTHER MEXICO CITY PAPERS ALSO CARRY STATEMENT IN

FULL OR IN PART.

4. MEANWHILE, RENEWED AND UNFOUNDED SPECULATION IS SURFACING IN HERMOSILLO. SENSATIONALIST MEXICO CITY DAILY LA PRENSA HAS STORY WITH HERMOSILLO DATELINE UNDER HEAD: "BLACK MEN ARE THE KILLERS OF PATTERSON." ARTICLE SAYS LITTLE MORE THAN THIS, CITING IT AS RUMOR CURRENTLY CIRCULATING IN HERMOSILLO. OTHER SPECULATION CITED IN SAME ARTICLE IS THAT KEESEE DECIDED TO KILL PATTERSON WHEN STORY LEAKED TO PRESS CONTRARY TO INSTRUCTIONS IN ORIGINAL RANSOM NOTE, OR BECAUSE HE PANICKED WHEN JUDICIAL POLICE HELICOPTERS OVERFLEW HERMOSILLO AND ENVIRONS.

5. COMMENT: SUCH SPECULATION OBVIOUSLY UNHELPFUL BUT LIKELY TO CONTINUE.
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